

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	§	
	§	
V.	§	CASE NO. 4:09-CR-00426
	§	
GODWIN CHIEDO NZEOCHA	§	

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

In accordance with the Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f), the Government moved for detention in this case. A detention hearing was held. I conclude that the following facts are established by a preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing evidence and require the detention of the defendant pending trial in this case.

Findings of Fact

- [] A. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(e), § 3142(f)(1)].
- [] (1) The defendant has been convicted of a (federal offense) (state or local offense that would have been a federal offense if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed) that is
- [] a crime of violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3156(a)(4).
- [] an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death.
- [] an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in 21 U.S.C. () § 801 et seq. () § 951 et seq. () § 955(a).
- [] a felony that was committed after the defendant had been convicted of two or more prior federal offenses described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1) (A)-(C), or comparable state or local offenses.
- [] (2) The offense described in finding 1 was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a federal, state or local offense.
- [] (3) A period of not more than five years has elapsed since the (date of conviction) (release of the defendant from imprisonment) for the offense described in finding 1.
- [] (4) Findings Nos. 1, 2, and 3 establish a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community. I further find that the defendant has not rebutted this presumption.

☐ B. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)]

☐ (1) There is probable cause to believe that the defendant has committed an offense

☐ for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in 21 U.S.C.
() § 801 et seq. () § 951 et seq. () § 955(a).

☐ under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).

☐ (2) The defendant has not rebutted the presumption established by finding 1 that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community.

☒ C. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2)]

☒ (1) Defendant is a naturalized U.S. citizen maintaining dual citizenship with Nigeria, the country of his birth. Defendant has substantial ties to Nigeria including real property and immediate family and travels there often. Defendant is in possession of a U.S. passport and a Nigerian passport.

☒ (2) Defendant is accused of conspiracy to commit health care fraud, conspiracy to commit mail fraud, and engaging in monetary transactions in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1347, 1349, and 1957.

☐ (3) There is a serious risk that the defendant will flee.

☐ (4) There is a serious risk that the defendant will (obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice) (threaten, injure, or intimidate a prospective witness or juror, or attempt to do so).

☒ D. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(c)]

☐ (1) As a condition of release of the defendant, bond was set as follows:

☐ (2)

☒ (3) I find that there is no condition or combination of conditions set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c) which will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required.

☐ (4) I find that there is no condition or combination of conditions set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c) which will reasonably assure the safety of any other person or the community.

Written Statement of Reasons for Detention

I find that the accusations in the criminal complaint establish by a preponderance of the evidence that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required.

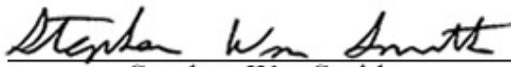
I conclude that the following factors specified in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) are present and are to be taken into account:

1. Defendant is a 54 year old naturalized United States citizen maintaining dual citizenship with Nigeria. He agreed to an interview with pretrial services, at which he reported that he is married with three children, ages 8, 4, and 5 months. The 8 year old and 4 year old currently reside in Nigeria as do his parents. Defendant also owns a house in Nigeria.
2. Defendant is not currently employed, owns no assets here, and has no known financial ties to the community. Defendant's only ties to the community are his spouse, 5 month old child, and two siblings that reside here.
3. Defendant left for Nigeria shortly after his co-defendant was arrested for the instant offense. He was later detained in Nigeria for over a year while attempting to avoid extradition to the United States to defend against the instant offense.
4. There is no condition or combination of conditions of release which would assure the appearance of the defendant in court. Detention is ordered.

Directions Regarding Detention

It is therefore ORDERED that the defendant is committed to the custody of the Attorney General or his designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility shall deliver the defendant to the United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with all court proceedings.

Signed at Houston, Texas, on July 3, 2012.


Stephen Wm Smith
United States Magistrate Judge